



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT APPROVES LOAN AND GRANT FOR TOWN OF TEMPLETON**

**TEMPLETON, MA** – Federal, State and Local officials gathered at the Templeton Center Fire Station in Templeton on Friday, March 22, 2002 to present a \$943,772 “big check” to the Town. The funding, which is being awarded to the community by the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development, will be used to extend the town’s sewer system. David Tuttle, State Director of Rural Development for Southern New England announced the approval of the \$427,729 low interest loan and \$516,000 grant on behalf of President George W. Bush and Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman.

This funding will help the Town of Templeton install sewer service to the northeastern portion of Route 68 and side streets that are not currently being served by sewers. This area of Town has experienced many failed septic systems over the years.

“This funding will do more then just extend the Town’s sewer system”, said State Director David Tuttle. “By eliminating septic leakage, this extension project will serve to eradicate a potential source of pollution in the Otter River, and will also protect one of Templeton’s four public drinking water wells, which is nearby.”

Congressman John Olver (MA-1) said, "I'm glad that we were able to help secure this funding. It's critical that our rural areas receive the same services that urban areas enjoy. The money will allow the town to expand much needed sewer services while protecting water quality."

"Extending the sewer system in Templeton has been a major goal for both the town and me in recent years," said Senator Brewer. "This funding will improve the quality of life for many area residents and also preserve and protect the area water sources. I commend Director Tuttle and the many town officials who have brought this much needed funding to Templeton."

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"I am very pleased to join Director Tuttle, Senator Brewer, and local officials at this event," Bunker said. "Septic failures have been a major problem throughout my district, and title V regulations have often proved onerous and expensive for homeowners. In many areas, like this section of Templeton, the real answer is not stricter septic regulations but expanded use of sewers. This project will further protect the environment, and the Otter River, and I am deeply appreciative to Director Tuttle and the USDA for their leadership on this issue."

Templeton's Sewer Department Superintendent Kent Songer said, "The Town of Templeton and the environment have both benefited greatly because many people at the Federal, State and town level have worked cooperatively to obtain this funding. It is exciting and rewarding to see everyone's efforts paying off."

Federal funding is made available to the Town of Templeton through the USDA Rural Development Rural Utility Service. Through this program, USDA Rural Development provides loans, grants and technical assistance for the renovation or construction of public water and waste system in rural communities.

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